

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
JOINT DRAINAGE AUTHORITY OF
RICE AND SCOTT COUNTIES**
*Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM*

I. Call to Order

A. Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order.

Present: Steve Underdahl, Rice County Commissioner, Jim Purfeerst, Rice County Commissioner, Charlie Peters, Rice County Commissioner, Barb Weckman-Brekke, Scott County Commissioner, Tom Wolf, Scott County Commissioner, John Kolb, Rice County Legal Counsel, Paula O'Connell, Rice County, Jarett Spitzak, Rice County, Steven Schultz-Petitioner, Jason Hill-Petitioners Attorney, Luke Lunde, Engineer. Michelle Hesse, Kris, Rodney Smisek, Augeisc, Erik Schuck, Troy Kuphal and Jacob.

B. The reason for the Public Hearing:

1. Petitioner Steven Schultz, Jason Hill, petitioners Attorney and Luke Lunde the Petitioner's Engineer, presented the order regarding the Partial Abandonment and Re-routing of County Lateral No. 1 to County Ditch No. 31 and Impounding of System Waters. The petition met all requirements and statutes. Luke Lunde gave a brief overview of the establishment of the wetland overbank. Due to the establishment of the Roadway Texas Avenue, it has cut off the waterway access. The Engineers have gone back and forth regarding the hydraulic modeling to identify negative and positive effects of the Berm on an intake. There is a connection between the culvert and the roadway. This will become two depressional wetlands. A map of the whole lateral giving a broader view of which is part of the northside that no longer functions, which would be a part of the abandonment. Luke Lunde stated anything coming from the East is being daylighted, so there are no adverse effects. This is once again becoming a natural wetland area. On April 2nd, 2025, Rice County sent notices out to owners in the drainage system. They were also sent to the Rice County Buildings Officials as well as Scott County Officials.

C. Engineer's Report

Purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the petition of Mr. Schultz to modify and impound waters upon Lateral 1 to County Ditch 31 (103E.227) and to abandon a portion of Lateral 1 to County Ditch 31 (103E.06). The goal of the Bank is to restore the functions of fresh meadow, shallow marsh, and deep marsh wetland systems. Credits from the Bank may be used as compensation for unavoidable wetland impacts authorized by Department of the Army permits. Subsurface drain tiles will be disconnected, and three new surface outlets will be installed. Installing two embankment structures to help simulate historical drainage patterns and provide rate control to reduce impacts to downstream landowners. The public and private benefits of this project will mitigate the bank, which will provide increased water storage and reduce flows to the drain tile under 280th Street. Hydraulic Analysis was completed. No major concerns. All lands will still drain and have access to the system through wetland restoration. There is no loss of outlet. A long-term maintenance plan will be the responsibility of the landowner, Mr. Schultz to provide vegetative community with support that will result in the desired communities for the expected wetlands credits.

1. Nothing from the Petitioner.

2. Open to Public Comment:

Bob Mitchell-downstream of the change. Will not affect his property. (Should benefit)

Motion by Tom Wolf, seconded by Charlie Peters to close public comment.

Approved: Purfeerst, Underdahl, Peters, Brekke and Wolf. Nays: None

The plan has been approved by a unanimous vote from the Board.

Follow-up questions were given by John Kolb for each board member to respond to.

1. Will the project be a public or private benefit? All the board stated yes to this question.
2. Would this proposed project impair Lateral 1 or affect the landowners of its benefits? All the board stated No.
3. If the proposed drainage project is constructed, will the portions of CD 31 Lateral 1 be affected? All board members stated no to this question.

In answering the above three questions, the criteria have been satisfied for revisions.

The condition of the tiles will need to be replaced. Since we don't know the current status of how the tiles look, it was asked if we could use what's in the funds to offset expenses to the petitioner? This would eliminate the 2200 feet for future fixing.

Motion to not defray by Peters, second by Underdahl.

Approved: Underdahl, Peters, Purfeerst No: Brekke, Wolf

Not taking responsibility for the outlet structure, just the 2200 feet. Eliminate item B from the order portion.

Motion by Peters, seconded by Wolf to accept the order and changes.

Approved: Underdahl, Peters, Purfeerst, Brekke and Wolf. Nays None

II. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Purfeerst adjourned the meeting.